



Wyoming

Department

of Health

Division of Healthcare Financing

## **Summary of Proposed Changes to the Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver**

### **Background**

The Long Term Care (LTC) waiver program provides services in the home to individuals deemed to be in need of nursing facility level of care. Services provided through this waiver program include:

1. case management
2. personal care
3. skilled nursing
4. respite
5. adult day care
6. personal emergency response system
7. home delivered meals
8. non-medical transportation

As of November 2015, there are 1552 participants statewide. 1915(c) waiver authorities must be renewed through CMS every five years. This waiver renewal is due to CMS by March 30, 2016 which will result in an effective date of July 1, 2016.

### **Proposed Changes**

1. Case Manager qualifications to comply with Conflict Free Regulations
  - Case managers cannot also provide a direct care service unless they are the only qualified provider in the geographic region to do so
  - Qualifications for case managers changed in Appendix C of the Waiver Application
2. Assisted Living Facility as a covered waiver service
3. Functional Assessment (LT-101) changes
  - Moving to annual clinical eligibility assessments (LT-101) for LTC recipients from every 6 months
    - This would align all community based long term care programs to the same clinical eligibility renewal dates
4. Per Person Cost Cap
  - Cap an individual's costs at nursing facility level of care

- Exceptions to this policy may be specified for instances when no other placement is available in state
- This may also serve as a trigger for additional review or level of scrutiny in conjunction with Department clinical expertise to determine if the participant is in the most medically appropriate setting
- Presently, there are no LTC waiver participants at or above nursing facility level of cost

5. Self direction and Department of Labor employment regulations

- LTC waiver participants have the option to direct their own care with the support of a care coordinator. The waiver participant acts as the employer and hires their own assistants.
- Allow participants to set the wage for their assistant within a range of \$10 - \$12 per hour
- Allow participants to use any savings to purchase more hours, and/or
- Allow participants to using savings from their assistant's wages to pay a bonus payment